

## BOOK REVIEW

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FICTION

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**THE MAKING OF A JOURNALIST.** By William S. White. (University Press of Kentucky, \$22.) William S. White has nearly 50 years of journalism behind him, from his Texas roots in hectic wire-service and "Front Page"-type scoops to his apotheosis as nationally syndicated columnist and opinion shaper. Mr. White belongs to the Old School according to which "gentlemen need not and did not point fingers at others"; violating the personal confidence of a President would be a capital offense; and debriefings by the C.I.A. are a normal part of a journalist's job. Predictably, he prefers Walter Lippmann to Barbara Walters or Bob Woodward. His reminiscences of Washington life, if chatty and often digressive, offer unusually respectful sideline views of American institutions and politicians from Hoover to Nixon. His cautious civil rights stance and his disdain for senatorial "crypto-pacifism" during the Kennedy Administration take the reader through recent national traumas. Yet aside from repeated descriptions of himself as lonely and alienated, Mr. White says little of his personal life. The reader must imagine the energies that propelled him to the Associated Press before he was 21, and led him to write half a dozen books (including a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Senator Robert Taft). Mr. White provides no recipe for his own or any other journalist's making; rather, through his relaxed tales of times lost, he documents his — and our — past.

ROBERT MINKOFF